

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2321

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015

Atrocities against Girl Students

Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed atrocities against girl students in various higher educational institutions including Central Universities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to monitor such cases; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (d) As per University Grants Commission (UGC), 295 cases of sexual harassment have been reported during 2014-15 in various institutes of higher learning against women. All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has also reported two (2) cases of sexual harassment against women. The details of such cases are given at Annexure.

The UGC have taken various steps to address the issue of sexual harassment in institutions of higher learning. Directions have been issued by UGC to all universities to establish a Cell to monitor and deal with sexual harassment cases and also to develop a page on their web-site for loading such complaints of sexual harassment. The universities have also been advised to take prompt action as soon as such incidents comes to their notice. The institutions of higher learning have been advised to hold conferences, seminars, workshops to sensitize the management and teachers and students about the issue. In the latest advisory issued in November, 2015, UGC has further reiterated its policy of zero tolerance with regard to harassment of any kind in the institutions of higher education.

AICTE has Standing Complaint Scrutiny Committee (SCSC) who scrutinize/examine the complaints, and as per the Complaint Handling Procedure Manual of AICTE, complaints related to sexual harassment received in AICTE are forwarded to National Commission for Women for necessary action.

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has also written to Centrally Funded Higher Education Institutions (CFHEIs) to tackle the issue of atrocities against girl students and advised them for formation of Complaints Committee as per guidelines i.e. Committee against Sexual Harassment (CASH) or Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) or Women Cell to address the complaints of the students and women employees.

Several innovative measures such as setting up of Complaint Box at various places, installation of closed circuit Television (CCTV) in campuses viz. parking corridors, canteen etc., to-and-fro escort shuttle service for girls, provision for Girls Common Room in the institute, training on use of technology as a tool for safety, dedicated emergency helpline have been taken for addressing the issue of sexual harassment. The CFHEIs have also created monitoring mechanism to ensure that the complaints are registered freely without any fear or trouble, action is taken on these complaints in a time-bound manner and if need be, assistance of local law and order authorities is sought.
